

Power and the Development of Community Forestry: the Complex Realities in the Nepal Context

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Intercooperation

1. Introduction

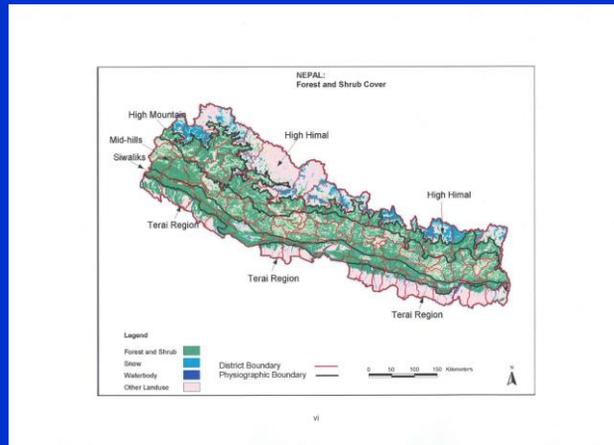
“Forestry’s inclusive focus

- *linking global to the national and local;*
- *the high levels of income and other benefits the forest can generate;*
- *its potential local fiscal base;*
- *the centrality of issues of tenure and collective rights;*
- *and its importance in rural livelihoods,*

all reinforce the linkages between good governance, public accountability and poverty alleviation.

Ensuring that the forest sector fulfils this brief is a major challenge not just to the host country governments but also to the donor community”.

2. Map of Nepal



3. Pre 1950-historical and indigenous systems of forest use and management

4. Modern Nepal 1950 to the late 1980s: increase in centralization and degradation of forests

- The nationalization of forests and development of the forestry administration
- Donors' "counterproductive" support for community based sustainable forest development.
- Private tree promotion: an indigenous response by farmers to reduced forest resources

5. Community forestry development: potentials, power struggles and missed opportunities

- The potential of Community Forestry
- The Community Forestry Development Process
 - Community level
 - Frame conditions, institutions and implementation strategies

- The achievements of community forestry
 - Capital formation in rural communities and its flow (natural, social, human, financial and physical capital)
 - Governance reform
- Factors hampering the development of community forestry
 - macro level
 - meso level
 - micro level

- *“There are serious questions about bureaucratic culture and power that throw doubt on the viability of implementing community forestry through the bureaucracy.”*
- *“So changing and contradictory policies should be blamed as responsible for the destruction of Nepal’s forest rather than rural people being blamed.”*

6. The political insurgency: community forestry development at the crossroads

7. Conclusions and recommendations

How can the hampering factors be tackled for the benefits of the communities and the national economies as a whole?

Appropriate recommendations concerning the kind of support required for CF development from the technical and the social processes' point of view have been made for so long, and reiterated *ad nauseum* in 100s of reports and publications.

What is needed is for the Government, with the appropriate and co-ordinated support of donors, to finally and genuinely tackle the root causes and constraints of Nepal's development problems.